

TO: CITY MANAGER 1996 APRIL 22

FROM: CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

SUBJECT: 1996 ELECTION BYLAWS

PURPOSE: To obtain Council authorization to bring forward bylaws for conducting the 1996 local government election.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council authorize the City Solicitor to prepare a bylaw to provide additional Advance Voting Opportunities on 1996 November 8, 13 and 14.
2. THAT Council authorize the City Solicitor to prepare a bylaw to provide Special Voting Opportunities in the form of mobile polls and to allow voters to vote outside their established voting divisions.
3. THAT Council authorize the City Clerk to execute an agreement with School District No. 41 to share in the costs of the 1996 Local Government Election as set out in this report.

R E P O R T

The Municipal Act of B. C. requires that Council undertake to do certain things in association with local government elections. Specifically, Council is required to enact bylaws to establish Advance Voting Opportunities, Special Voting Opportunities and to adopt a resolution to enter into an agreement with School District No. 41 to recoup costs for conducting the election of school trustees.

1.0 ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

Council is required by the Act to provide an Advance Voting Opportunity on 1996 November 06 (10 days prior to general voting day) and on one other date to be decided by Council. In prior years, Council have also provided for advance voting opportunities on the Wednesday and Thursday immediately prior to general voting day as statistically these days have provided the highest percentage of voter turnout for advance voting. In keeping with that tradition, staff are recommending Advance Voting Opportunities be held on November 6, 8 13 and 14. Voting will be held on the first floor at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on these dates.

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2.0 SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

In previous years Council have established Special Voting Opportunities to allow qualified individuals residing in nursing or seniors homes or who are hospital patients on voting day, to vote. We have also permitted residents to vote outside their established voting division provided they make application to do so prior to the close of the list of electors. This accommodates those residents who are affected by voting division boundary changes but who wish to continue voting at their previous voting place. Staff are recommending Council continue with past practice in providing these opportunities to Burnaby voters.

3.0 AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41

In 1993 the Municipal Act of B. C. was amended to allow municipalities to cost share with school districts for providing election services for the election of school trustees. Although Burnaby absorbed the cost for this service in 1993, as it had for previous elections, it was agreed at that time that efforts would be made in 1996 to establish a cost-sharing arrangement with School District No. 41, for the provision of election services.

Discussions between the City and School District No. 41 have arrived at the figure of 20% of the total election costs to be born by the School District. This represents the proportionate share for the School District relative to the number of ballots to be presented to voters on general voting day (i.e. one of a probable five ballots). Council's concurrence is required in order to finalize these arrangements through the enactment of the appropriate agreement with the School District.

4.0 ORDER OF NAMES ON A BALLOT

In 1993 Council adopted a by-law requiring the order of the names of municipal candidates on ballots to be determined by lot. Unless directed by Council to bring forward a bylaw to repeal this procedure, the same process will apply for the 1996 election. The bylaw applies only to municipal candidates and does not affect school trustees.

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The foregoing is presented for the consideration of Council.

Respectfully submitted,



D. R. Comis,
Chief Election Officer.

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cc: Deputy City Manager - Corporate Services
City Solicitor

